

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~prosthesis~~, stent implantable at least partially in a blood vessel in contact with a wall of the blood vessel and comprising at least one releasable therapeutic agent coated directly on a surface of the stent which is free from a biocompatible coating, wherein the releasable therapeutic agent comprises melatonin (N-acetyl-5-methoxytryptamine) and/or a drug derived from melatonin and having analogous effects on the healing response of the vessel wall, the therapeutic agent being present in an amount effective to modify the healing response of the vessel wall after tissue injury caused by the implantation of the ~~prosthesis~~ stent by inhibiting inflammation, cell proliferation and cell growth into the ~~prosthesis~~ stent.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~prosthesis~~ stent according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the stent is made of a wire, or a hollow wire filled with said therapeutic agent or with a product containing said therapeutic agent.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~prosthesis~~ stent according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the stent comprises a generally thin walled cylinder, said cylinder containing a plurality of struts, said struts expandable depending on the amount of force applied to said strut, and said struts having a generally uniform thickness.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~prosthesis~~ stent according to claim [[3]] 1, ~~wherein the stent further comprises comprising~~ a generally thin walled structure containing a plurality of struts, the struts expandable to assume the shape of a lumen into which the stent is to be placed, said struts having a thickness and are provided with one or more recesses formed in at least one of said struts, said recesses having a closed perimeter on all sides and an open top and eventually

an open bottom, the recesses containing said therapeutic agent or a product containing said therapeutic agent.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~prosthesis~~ stent according to claim 1, ~~wherein the prosthesis has~~ having a total load of said melatonin and/or of said melatonin derived drug of at least $0.001 \mu\text{g}/\text{mm}^2$, the total load of said melatonin and/or of said melatonin derived drug being lower than $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{mm}^2$.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~prosthesis~~ stent according to claim 1, ~~wherein the prosthesis is~~ arranged to release said therapeutic agent over a period of at least 6 hours after implantation in the blood vessel.

10.-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~prosthesis~~ stent according to claim [[3]] 1, ~~wherein said stent which~~ is a coronary endovascular stent.